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THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2005

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Bob Nichol may rejoin Dysart council

LANCE CROSSLEY

Staff Reporter

The saga of the council seat vacated by Bob Nichol continues with the possibility that Nichol himself may be the one to return to council chambers. Dysart et al

Reeve Murray Fearrey has indicated that council is willing to slightly alter the time of committee meetings on the first Monday of every month to accommodate Nichol's return.

"That would allow him, if council appoints him, to come back on," says

Reeve Fearrey. Under the new timetable, roads and planning meetings would be held at 3 p.m. instead of noon.

Council will be making an official decision on the issue at next Monday's meeting. In a phone interview, Nichol confirmed that, should scheduling issues be

resolved, he would indeed be willing to finish his term for Haliburton Village (Ward 1).

"If six people were willing to make changes for me then it would be pretty

See **Scheduling** page 4

Trial for teen's death wraps up

Verdict will be July 28

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

Even if Rosalind Bagg later talked herself into believing that she might have struck Jesse Dickson's foot as he lay on County Road 14 on the morning of September 15, 2002, that doesn't mean she was lying to police when she was first questioned about coming across his body, Bagg's lawyer said as her trial on two counts of obstructing police wrapped up in Lindsay last Monday.

"The court should be left with a reasonable doubt that at the time she spoke to police in September 2002 she did not believe she had come into contact with Jesse Dickson in any way," John Norris said in his summation before Judge Lorne Chester. "By 2003 [when Bagg told police that she had indeed hit Jesse but that he was already lying on the road], she had managed to convince herself that she may have.

"[But] there is no evidence before the court that her belief that her vehicle struck Mr. Dickson is true.... There is no evidence, apart from Ms. Bagg's belief, that her vehicle actually struck Mr. Dickson, that her third statement is true."

The trial revolves around the 52-year-old Eagle Lake woman's initial two statements to police the day Jesse was killed and a videotaped interview more than a year later. In the first two interviews she tells police that she came across his body as she drove home to Haliburton Lake, with her daughter in the back seat, some time after 2:30 in the morning.

The third interview had been originally scheduled as a polygraph test but instead of undergoing what's commonly referred to as a lie detector test, Bagg told police that "I hit him, I did it, but I didn't knock

See **Defence** page 16



DARREN LUM/Echo

Yesss!

You'll see lots of smiles on children's faces this week as they look forward to the last day of school on Thursday. At Stuart Baker elementary School's carnival, senior kindergarten student Shane O'Reilly celebrates after throwing the fozz ball.

Motorcyclist loses leg

GRAEME STEMP

Staff Reporter

Mary-Lou Packard had to watch last Thursday's motorcycle collision on Highway 21 happen in her rear view mirror.

"All I could do was pull over and scream in vain for them to get out of the motorcycle's way," she recalls.

The collision occurred just past the Ingoldsby turn off when a red Volkswagen Golf tried to pass some other vehicles while heading up the hill

See **Lindsay man** page 15



William Denning's leg was severed when he was forced from County Road 21 near Ingoldsby.

Echo 'by far' the best paper in Canada

A "commitment to excellence" makes the Haliburton County Echo the best newspaper in its class, says the judge in the Canadian Community Newspaper Association's annual awards competition.

"The Echo is by far the best in the class and rivals newspapers in the much larger markets," the judge of papers with a circulation of 4,000 to 6,499 says.

And what makes the paper an award winner? Team effort: "Eye-catching advertisements, well-written stories, crisp layout, terrific colour and fine photography make the Echo fun and informative for readers in Haliburton County."

Coming in second was the Yarmouth Nova Scotia Vanguard while Nunavut News North came third.

The judge also gave the Echo the awards for Best Front Page and Best Editorial Pages.

The paper earned two other first-place awards, as well as a second and a third in the CCNA Better Newspapers Awards.

Photographer Darren Lum's evocative front-page picture of a young girl solemnly placing her hand over her poppy at a Remembrance Day service came first in Best Feature Photograph for newspapers with a circulation between 4,000 and 12,499.

"Lum took a photo of a scene we have all attended many times - a school Remembrance Day ceremony. But by finding the child with the perfect expression on her face, and using the Canadian flag as a framing device, Lum creates a photo that is unique and emotionally powerful," the judge says.

"Lum's work can serve as an example to other feature photographers - it may be a familiar subject, but by moving around the room and experimenting with different angles and approaches, you might be amazed at the shots you get."

See **Team effort** page 14

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Cliff jumper injured on Haliburton Lake

On the weekend the Haliburton fire department was called out to Haliburton Lake to assist paramedics after a young man injured his lower back jumping from a cliff into the lake.

The young man was lying in a boat on the water when firefighters arrived, and they helped the paramedics load him into the ambulance.

He was then taken to the Haliburton Hospital for further medical attention.



Thanks

...to Bob Park, owner of the Haliburton IGA and Steve Chambers, IGA Produce Manager, for coming to the rescue of the Good Food Box Program.

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From Coal Oil Lights to Satellites

by Ray Y.C. Miller

"A Haliburton County Redneck" will be signing copies of his book at Undercover Books in Haliburton on Saturday, July 2nd from 11 am to 2:30 pm

Haliburton native wins accolades here, there & everywhere

news and events worth noting

IN THE PAST YEAR, Dr. Darren Warburton, a native of Haliburton, has received significant accolades and awards for his innovative research with patients with cardiovascular disease and spinal cord injuries as well as heart transplant recipients and at-risk youth. He is a professor at the University of British Columbia, specializing in cardiovascular physiology and rehabilitation. His research has been highlighted in the national and international media, including the *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *Maclean's* magazine, the CBC and CTV. Dr. Warburton has also been awarded

the prestigious Canadian Institutes of Human Research New Investigator Award and the Michael Smith foundation for Health Research Scholar Award. Funding has been granted by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the B.C. Neurotrauma Fund. These awards recognize his important contributions to the improvement of Canadians' health and wellbeing. His friends and family extend sincerest congratulations.

If you have an historic car that you're proud of come and join the Haliburton Highland Games annual parade down the main street of Haliburton on Saturday July 9 at 11 a.m.. For further information call Jim Frost 457-4031 or Barry Martin 754-1997.

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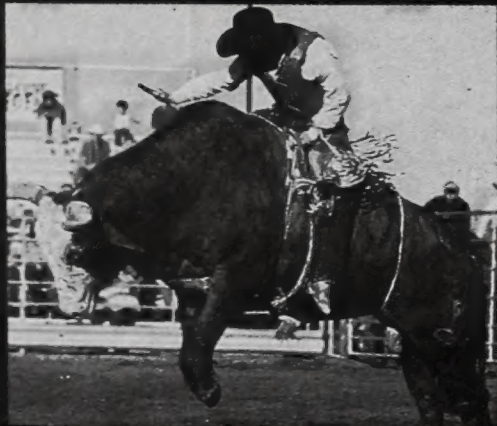
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DARREN LUM/ECHO

Wasn't that a yard sale?

The 7th annual Trash 'n Treasures sale along the Head Lake boardwalk on Saturday was a hot fundraiser with mid-summer-like temperatures and 46 vendors who contributed \$1,500 to the Rails End Gallery. The gallery contributed \$360 by from their own booth sales, made possible by gallery members and staff.

Devolin keeps eye on Stronach in Conservatives' shadow cabinet

LANCE CROSSLEY

Staff Reporter

Local MP Barry Devolin has received a promotion of sorts after being named to the Conservative Party's shadow cabinet.

The appointment means that Devolin is now the official opposition critic for the Associate Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

"I am very excited about this," says Devolin. "It's a new role and I'll do my best to make (Conservative Leader) Stephen Harper happy that he appointed me."

HRSD is the department currently headed by former Conservative MP Belinda Stronach. Devolin has been a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee that oversees HRSD and says he is already knowledgeable about many of the pertinent issues.

The appointment suggests Harper is showing some confidence in the rookie MP, who believes he is ready for the new role.

"During my first year, there was a learning curve, learning about my job in the riding as well as my responsibilities as a member of parliament," says Devolin. "I've had a year to find my feet



Conservative MP Barry Devolin hosted his party's deputy leader on Saturday at the Lindsay Rugby Club. In the back row is Lindsay Rugby Club member Steve Lamb. In the front row are club member James Blair, MP Barry Devolin, MPP Laurie Scott, Peter MacKay and club president Ted Twoey.

and now I've being asked to take on additional responsibility."

Devolin realizes there is a fine line between constructive critique and bi-partisan antagonism but says the role of opposition critic is important to

Canadian democracy.

"The Parliamentary system is an adversarial system," said Devolin. "There's always improvements that can be made and it's the responsibility of the opposition to bring those forth."

Toronto man drowns in Monmouth lake

A 54-year old Scarborough man visiting Little Monmouth Lake in Highlands East drowned on Friday afternoon.

The man rowed a small aluminum boat across a 400-metre bay to swim on a rocky shoal. His friends saw him swimming, but seconds later when they looked again he was nowhere to be seen.

His friends paddled out to search for him, but all they could find was his aluminum boat with his lifejacket inside.

The OPP arrived on the scene, and after thoroughly searching the area called in the Under Water Search and Recovery Unit. An underwater diver located the man only metres from where he had last been seen.

Kalamuddin "Murphy" Kamaruddin was pronounced dead at the scene. The OPP do not suspect foul play.

Heavy rains lead to beach closures

GRAEME STEMP

Staff Reporter

Kids are finishing classes and the summer heat is upon us, but already some local beaches are off limit for afternoon swims.

The Haliburton, Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit temporarily closed Rotary Beach in Haliburton and Minden Rotary Beach in the lagoon and river areas last Friday.

The reason for the closures is a high level of background e.coli.

The local health units take samples every week and test for coliform units (specifically e.coli). If the average of the sample comes back with more than 100 units, then the beach must be closed due to health regulations.

"The water is much worse after a lot of rain," says Richard Ovcharovich, supervisor of environmental health at the Health Unit. "Everything gets washed into the water, so it becomes really nasty and not suitable for bathing."

Ovcharovich adds that fecal waste (whether from geese, dogs, or any other warm-blooded animals) contains e.coli, so any droppings that find their way into the water help close a beach.

Teachers settle?

A tentative agreement has been reached between the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation and the Trillium Lakelands District School Board.

The OSSTF received a strike mandate from local members on March 10. The stumbling block was teachers' demands for smaller class sizes, more staffing and alterations to benefit packages.

Since then the Ministry of Education, unions, and the Ontario Public School Boards Association agreed upon a bargaining framework that included 1,300 new secondary teachers and salary increases of 2-3 per cent over the next four years.

School boards were given to June 1 to hammer out the details with locals. That deadline was extended for Trillium Lakelands because teachers continued to bargain without accelerated work-to-rule activity.

County Life celebrates Canada's birthday

Find out all of the ways you can say "Happy Birthday Canada" on Friday while you join Steve Galea and Bryn Weese on their search for the real Canada. then, if you dare, test your knowledge about this great country of ours by trying our Canada Day quiz.



Number of local doctors is healthy but more needed

LANCE CROSSLEY

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports from the 9th annual general meeting of Haliburton Highlands Health Services last Thursday.

Chief of Staff Dr. Bob Heyes reported that there are currently more than 50 doctors and dentists serving the Highlands. The reason so many residents still have a hard time finding a family doctor is that the majority of those doctors have courtesy privileges only.

For example, 15 MDs are what are called "camp doctors", who tend to children at local camps during the summer months. As well, there are also 17 doctors with courtesy privileges who provide the manpower for the emergency rooms.

There are nine doctors in on the roster who have active privileges, most of whom call Haliburton County their home. These physicians include most of the family doctors who cover ER shifts in Haliburton and provide care at both long-term care sites.

Acute care

Director of Acute and Ambulatory Care Susan Reid reported that a sterilization program was established for the organization. A sterilization unit was purchased with recent ministry funding and two of her staff received top marks during the certification process.

Reid also said her department was one of the few in the province that received a perfect audit from the province regarding infection control practices.

She also recognized the development of a wait-list management system for the physiotherapy department, which has translated into more than 80 per cent of patients being seen within seven, 30, or 90, days depending on the greatest need.

Mental Health

Director of Mental Health Services Jose Urbano praised the inception of Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI), a county-wide program that aims to detect psychosis in its early stages. Urbano said that psy-

chosis first manifests itself in the teens or early adulthood but can have a positive prognosis if treated early on.

The director also was pleased that 68 per cent of the centre's referrals came from individuals themselves or their family and friends, a strong indicator that the program is well-known in the community. About 12 per cent of referrals come from doctors.

Financial department

Chief Financial Officer Cathy Outram was happy to report that her department was able to implement a variety of software that has helped to streamline and automate administration processes. She says the system investments may be substantial but they are already paying for themselves and she hopes the hospital will continue with this trend.

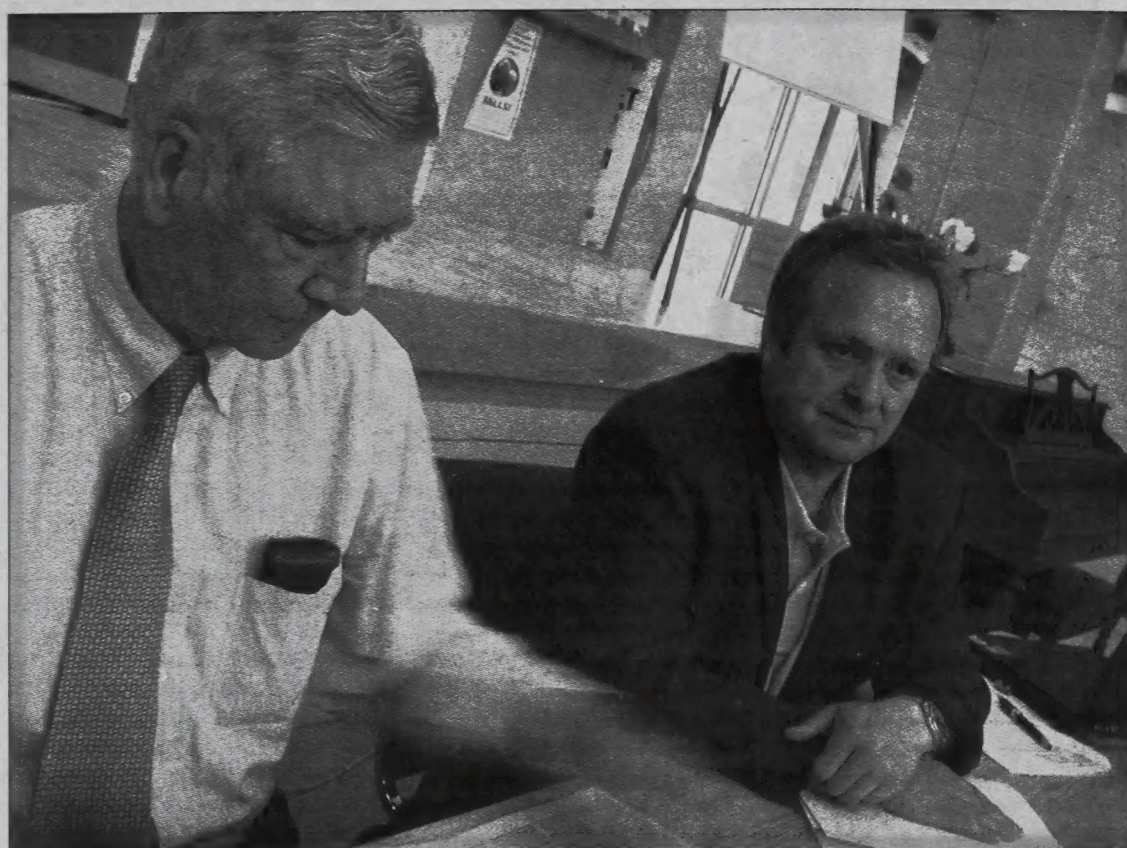
Fundraising

Dale Walker, director of the HHHS Foundation, said the foundation transferred \$290,000 toward the corporation's capital loan, which means there is now \$1.3 million remaining before Health Services is out of the red. She also was pleased to announce that the last Christmas campaign was one of the most successful in the Foundation's history, raising about \$75,000.

Goodbyes and hellos

HHHS said goodbye to board members Marg Cox, Betty Moffatt, and Dave Coulson. Cox was described by board member Margaret Risk as someone who brought a lot of expertise to the table as well as a sharp sense of humour. Moffatt thanked HHHS and described her time there as a privilege as well as a "wonderful" if not at times "rocky" ride. Coulson, who has had experience with numerous health boards, called HHHS "one of the best in Ontario".

Newly appointed to the board of directors are former CBC executive Alan Clark, telecommunications expert David Taylor, and former Sunnybrook Health Sciences Vice President Jane Taylor.



LANCE CROSSLEY/Echo

Board Chair Dr. Dick Charron and CEO Keith Sansford were pleased to hear the financial reports at Haliburton Highlands Health Services' 9th annual AGM. The corporation declared a surplus of more than \$200,000.

Health services' budget in the black thanks to funding increases

LANCE CROSSLEY

Staff Reporter

Board members were relaxed and good-humoured at the ninth annual general meeting of Haliburton Highlands Health Services as auditors revealed the corporation has some fiscal breathing room.

"The state of HHHS is good," CEO Keith Sansford said during the meeting's introductory speech. "I should say the state of the organization is excellent but I'm safer to say it's good because we never know what tomorrow will bear."

Health Services realized a sur-

plus of \$232,000 for the fiscal year, taking in just more than \$15.6 million in revenue while incurring \$15.4 million in expenses.

John West, from the auditing firm McColl Turner, said the surplus is less than in previous years but compares favourably to deficits that arose between 2000-2003.

Of the total expenses, 56 per cent was spent on compensation, an increase of \$1.2 million over the year before. The considerable difference is partly attributed to increases in salaries, staffing, and contributions to the Ontario Pension Plan.

The Ministry of Health increased funding to the Highlands by about \$900,000 this year, of which about \$600,000 went to hospital operations.

The government gave a financial boost to other programs as well, such as long term care (up by \$134,000) and mental health services (up by \$80,000).

"Those dollars may not be as significant relative to overall operations but to each individual program they certainly did mean a lot," said West.

Currently, the ministry accounts for 82 per cent of all revenues for HHHS.

Scheduling change may see Nichol's return

from page 1

difficult to turn down," said Nichol in a carefully worded answer.

The Ward 1 seat has been empty since June 6, when Nichol announced he could no longer fulfill his duties as councillor due to time constraints. Council was then given 60 days to find a replacement either through a by-election or special appointment.

Nichol's runner up in the last

election, Jim Henwood, who lost to Nichol by only a handful of votes, has expressed a clear interest in filling the seat.

The empty seat led to controversy at the last council meeting when Henwood supporters Greg Gough and Derek Knowles strongly, and at times abrasively, told council that Henwood is the logical replacement.

At that point council members sternly told Gough and Knowles that they would not be

"steamrolled" into a rush decision.

Reeve Fearrey said the scheduling change was not possible before because council's time was still immersed in issues pertaining to zoning by-laws in the official township plan.

"We now have the draft by-law done on the zoning and that was taking two or three hours each meeting. That's gone now and that's a big difference," said Fearrey.

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Doctors learn the ropes about rural practice

LANCE CROSSLEY

Staff Reporter

Doctors are in short supply in rural Ontario but the University of Toronto School of Medicine and Haliburton Family Medical Centre are working together to try to change that.

For the last few years, medical students with only one year left before graduation have travelled out of the city and into the Highlands for a few weeks of hands-on learning.

This past year four students (Raymond Jang, Wendy Thomas, Sarah Takach and Mark Bonta) arrived in Haliburton for a six-week family practice placement at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre. Students followed doctors around on a daily basis as they saw patients, wrote prescriptions, visited the hospital, and more.

"The doctors up here really know

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES



GRAEME STEMP/Echo

Four adventuresome medical students made the trip to Haliburton to learn family medicine in a more relaxed setting. Raymond Jang, Sarah Takach, Mark Bonta, and Wendy Thomas spent several weeks learning from the doctors of Haliburton Family Medical Centre, and they loved every minute of it, especially their chance to do Medeba's ropes course, left.



their stuff," says Jang. "In the city, you can send them for special tests or refer them to a specialist; but up here you have to use good judgement because you can't order tests or get them to a specialist easily."

Not only were the doctors extremely knowledgeable, they were normal people. "In the city, a lot of doctors aren't well balanced; they work, work, work all day every day and don't know how to take it easy. Up here, people are more well-rounded," says Bonta. "In Haliburton, doctors take lunch breaks and go home at night; they actually have lives outside of medicine and it hasn't hurt their patients or their credibility - it's good to see that it's possible."

While the students were in Haliburton, they had a chance to see more than the

insides of doctors' offices. The students went rock climbing at Medeba, did the canopy tour and saw the wolves at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve, and biked and hiked on many beautiful trails. "It was really nice to be able to come home from work and do something real, not just work out at a gym or swim in a pool," said Mark.

The group even took some time out every week to tour the local dump. "I'm a city-slicker," says Jang, "so the dump was definitely an eye-opening experience."

Another eye opening experience: black flies. "The bugs were bad," said Takach, "but even the bugs couldn't deter us from loving our time up here. I mean, where else can you study for a major medical exam on a dock on the edge of a

crystal clear lake."

After all their time up here working and playing, the students had nothing but good things to say. "I would recommend it to everybody," said Takach. "My only complaint is that the placement should actually be longer, maybe eight or twelve weeks instead. Being here really moved the North up my career list a lot; it's definitely an option for the future."

Thomas couldn't have agreed more. "I loved my time up here so much that I am coming back here in August for another few weeks of placement."

Hearing how much the students loved their time here is proof positive that Haliburton Family Medical Centre's bid to get doctors to the area by exposing them to it as students is working.

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Work together

Why is it that summer is like Christmas? It always comes at the same time of year and yet you're always surprised by how quickly it seems to arrive. And once it gets here, you're too busy to really enjoy it because there's so much to stuff into a short time. Poof, and it's gone.

The heat of the past week surely will convince people that summer, or at least part of it, should be spent in the Highlands. After last summer's rain, and the SARS and West Nile scares of the summer before, local businesses certainly are due for a busy time although the busier it gets, the more local residents begin to

question why they spend so much of such a glorious season working! (The answer to that is found on our empty main streets in January and February.)

Summer in the Highlands shouldn't be such a hard sell but we certainly are facing a lot of competition for tourists' dollars. One major source of competition is Ontario's burgeoning wine district. Businesses there have done a phenomenal job of banding together to promote the region. There's no bickering about which community is best; they let visitors decide that for themselves once they're lured there in the first place. All those tobacco farms that have been transformed into vineyards must be smiling as Ontario prepares to become totally smoke free.

Yet the wine region gets another big boost: the provincial government. It has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in promoting the region, both to Ontarians and out-of-province visitors. The brochures and ads are thick and plentiful. When will start seeing government-printed brochures showing a kid jumping off a dock into a sparkling lake or a cyclist biking along a forested trail? Although it seems incredulous to those who have already discovered the Highlands' wonders, the whole concept of a weekend at the lake is being largely ignored by the province's marketers.

Perhaps part of it is our own fault. We're too busy competing with Muskoka and the Kawartha Lakes to form a lobbying group with them. Together we'd be hard for the provincial government to ignore; apart we're just yelling hard and no one is listening. What about it? Should be part of Ontario's Lake District? Should Cottage Country be like a brand name?

A team effort

When you read this week's paper, you know who wrote the stories and took the photos. But unless you're an advertiser you have no idea who sells the ads; you still might not even know who designs them. You're not aware of who makes our books balance and who keeps her calm under the pressure of trying to answer four phone lines. How does the paper get from the printer's in Bracebridge to the post office and store shelves?

Work inside the Echo office and you are fully aware of how much of a team effort goes into every week's paper. There are so many different skill sets at work here. Each person contributes to the final product in a very specialized way and the paper you are reading is nothing but the sum of its dozens of parts.

Starting soon, the Echo is entering into a partnership with Canoe FM to make sure that radio listeners are kept up to date with local news. Neither media outlet has the resources to bring you news on the hour, but we will try on Friday afternoons to let you know about the week that was.

echo
editorial

martha perkins



Moonlit highway, cars racing by.

Photo by DARREN LUM/ECHO

In search of a windsurfer

I have just finished a most informative, and interesting odyssey (a long series of wanderings, according the Oxford English Dictionary) - a telephone odyssey that is. It wasn't today's typical attempt to reach a goal with only a record responding. No, my telephone odyssey had real voices at each of my ports of call. It's just that what I thought was a simple search became a long series of wanderings.

I wanted to buy a wind surfer. Simple I thought, for I see them out on our lake. My first port of call was Haliburton, actually three different docking places. Each person most pleasantly said "Not here" but suggested another possibility. Off I wandered, to Kennesis Lake, then to two moorings in Minden, then Norland, then Fenelon Falls, then Bobcaygeon. At one port it was suggested that I buy a paddleboat. Oh!

Several said that wind surfers are passe and personal watercraft are the popular choice. I would comment that "With windsurfers the neighbours don't get upset, the rider gets exercise and learns another skill - sailing." Several agreed, several just laughed - none tried to promote the personal watercraft as an alternative.

Bobcaygeon finally said "Try 'Never Without Wind' in Oshawa." Eureka! My wanderings were over. Used ones, new ones, a knowledgeable and enthusiastic voice answering all my questions - plus a wind surfer just made for our family. When told him of the lake it would call home, he commented that it was a great lake for wind. He used to give clinics there as well as elsewhere in our Highlands.

I finished my wanderings personally delighted but greatly saddened concerning the replacement of windsurfers by PWCs. Why? Obviously the marketing campaign from the start gave personal watercraft an illusion of an extreme sport to a generation who seem to ever seek the 'new.' What, in fact, does it offer, especially to those on essentially land bound lakes? Speed, little effort, the thrill perhaps of going round and round and round on the lake.

Many are the drawbacks. The noise bursts on any quiet summer day. Coming close to shore, as too often it does, it upsets nature's preserve-loons call raucously but the roar of the engine drowns that out for the rider; spawning grounds are disturbed; swimming areas get threatened. Personal watercraft also pour their toxic fumes into the atmosphere. The energy required to drive one reminds me of

what a doctor once told me when I mentioned my exercise regime. — It involved at least once a week riding my horse on trails for hours - often coming home stiff. He responded that it was the best exercise he could think of — for the horse. Me being stiff meant protesting muscles not daily called on but not burning up much energy. Even that was better than PWCs where the exercise only wears out its parts. Briefly personal watercraft are fun for the rider and a major nuisance for the life surrounding our peaceful lakes.

The windsurfer, on the other hand, offers serious exercise for its rider, giving an ever increasing opportunity to develop skills both in handling the board and sail, and learning to read the ever fractious wind. No fumes, no noise, no irate neighbours. To the owner, much less cost, greater ease of storage, no mechanics' bills. To other cottagers an interesting and restful view.

Two phenomena have evolved since the coming of the jet ski. People are selling their cottages because the noise of those little amphibious motors has ruined the peace they always found at their lakes. Those with the PWCs, as well, too often are apologetic for using them. Why then are PWCs continuing to intrude upon our world to the extent that wind surfers are on longer cost effective for marine facilities to stock?

Does the majority not have any say in what the manufacturers chose to thrust upon us? Are we merely that amorphous, gullible clientele that just goes with the flow?



marion hare

perspectives

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HALIBURTON COUNTY

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Higher education

Last Friday afternoon, I picked up my son from school. In hindsight, I believe that might have been my first mistake.

It's not that I have anything against springing my boy from the educational system for the weekend – on the contrary, I believe that driving the getaway car is probably the duty of every good dad. But Ryan is one of those weird kids who actually takes what he learned in school and applies it correctly in every day life. I guess what I'm saying is, back in my day, we would have made him play net.

tales from



steve
galea

vinegar hill

Naturally, his insatiable thirst for knowledge is not something I'm proud of, but he's my boy and I'll stick by him through these tough times. If he's anything like I was, all this apparent intelligence will end abruptly with the discovery of girls.

Even so, you can imagine my sorrow and distress when Ryan hopped into the car, with homework in hand, and eagerly uttered, "Dad, you'll never guess what we learned today?"

"I suppose your teacher told you about the big event and now

you're excited about the opener of bass season, huh?" I answered quickly. "Do you think we ought to buy some leeches this year or just take turns standing naked in the swamp for a while?"

"We were given a sex education class," he said, matter-of-factly. "You know, it was actually quite interesting."

"I bet you'll want to use your favourite top water lure too, hey son?" I continued. "I think the lunkers will love that, especially if it's a calm morning."

"The teacher instructed us about human anatomy, puberty, and stuff..." he said. "You know, all this time we've been using all the wrong terminology."

"I think we'll start on a small lake in a canoe...Did you say sex education!!!!?"

"Yup," Ryan muttered. "We learned about the birds and the bees. Wanna hear what he taught us?"

Sensing that we were teetering precariously on the verge of discussing yet another important educational issue, I started humming loudly and gunning the engine at stop signs. It was the only mature thing to do, since I couldn't safely drive with my hands over my ears.

But despite this, my boy was not to be deterred. Before I knew it, he had engaged me in an instructive and stimulating conversation about human anatomy and sexuality. Not only that but he explained quite a few things that had puzzled me throughout my formative years – which officially ended last Friday, by the way.

Yes, as we drove along, he very competently revealed a wealth of newfound mysteries to me – some of which I would have preferred not to know.

"So that's why dogs do that, huh?" I mumbled, shaking my head. "And all this time, I just thought they were showing off..."

By the time our conversation was over, I was up to speed on several important matters not even remotely suitable for print. But, believe it or not, I was also quite proud of my son – something my dad always maintained skipped a generation. So, when we stopped at a red light, I turned and looked at him thoughtfully.

"You know pal, maybe for the first time ever, I'm really impressed by your level of maturity. You hardly giggled, blushed, or made stupid jokes about all this stuff. You obviously took it all in and paid attention just like an adult. Who would have thought?"

"Thanks Ryan, that's nice of you to say" I replied. "But I still think kinky is the proper term."

Minutes later, my boy and I had reverted to talking about truly important stuff that a man needs to understand. Most of which was not taught in school.

"So you're saying that post-spawn bass can often be found in shallow emergent cabbage weed beds that form along a drop-off?" Ryan asked.

"Of course, son," I answered. "You know if you paid a little more attention to fishing shows and a lot less attention to your homework you might not need me to explain this stuff to you."

"Uh, sorry dad."

For a while after that, we drove along in silence. But then it occurred to me that my little boy was really growing up. Suddenly, his maturity level had somehow slipped out of childhood, and was moving steadily and imperceptibly towards adulthood. And, even more remarkable was the fact that mine was somehow being towed along.

And maybe it's just a sign of our personal development, but you know, this year, we decided to buy the leeches.



pic of the past

The Hamilton children soon learned that there was lots to be done around their homestead near Gelert. In this photo it looks like they're helping out in the garden. Standing are Len, Tom and Bob Hamilton. Close to the crops are Rex Stuart and Alice Hamilton. Our thanks to Bill Francis of Cameron for sharing this delightful snapshot of Haliburton's past with us.

letters to the editor

Integrity shouldn't be questioned

To the Editor:

Re: June 21, 2005

Re: Vacant council seat ignites hostility and Martha Perkins' editorial.

The front age report on the discussions that took place at the June 13 council meeting regarding the replacement for Councillor Bob Nichol requires a response. As one of those who spoke in support of Jim Henwood, I must take exception to the comments of Reeve Murray Fearrey who suggested that I was only supporting Henwood for selfish reasons. In other words should Councillor Al Ferguson be unable to complete his term due to illness, council would feel obligated to appoint me as I was second to him in the election. This calls into question my integrity and is entirely unwarranted and unprofessional on the part of the reeve. While I may be outspoken, I defy anyone to say that I have not been entirely honest.

I also find it in poor taste that the Reeve raised Mr. Ferguson's health issues suggesting that he may have to resign. Surely he and his family did not need to see their private affairs in print.

Two incidents at the meeting, both involving Reeve Fearrey, were strangely missing from the story. At one point when the presentations had concluded, Reeve Fearrey asked Mr. Henwood if he had anything to say and, when he replied that he did not, the Reeve countered with "of course not, you brought these two guys (Mrs. Gough and myself) to do the talking for you." Such class! This is a clear insult to Mr. Henwood, and for what reason?

It was also not reported that I ended my short presentation by reminding Reeve Fearrey that on the very day of Mr. Nichol's resignation, he had

approached Mr. Henwood at his place of business where he informed him that the job was his if he wanted it. (This is precisely why I stated that council must appoint Mr. Henwood.) It was at this point, while he appeared to be struggling to pull his foot from his mouth, that Reeve Fearrey mumbled something about "interpretation." Interpretation my foot!

With regard to the editorial by Martha Perkins, she is not entirely correct when she states that my relationship with council is anything but cordial. It is with Reeve Fearrey that I maintain an ongoing personal battle, the reasons for which will become apparent at the appropriate time. Hopefully the wounds in my back will have healed by then!

Thank you, Martha, for your support. Jim Henwood is the logical replacement. Enough said.

Derek Knowles,
Haliburton

Event unhealthy

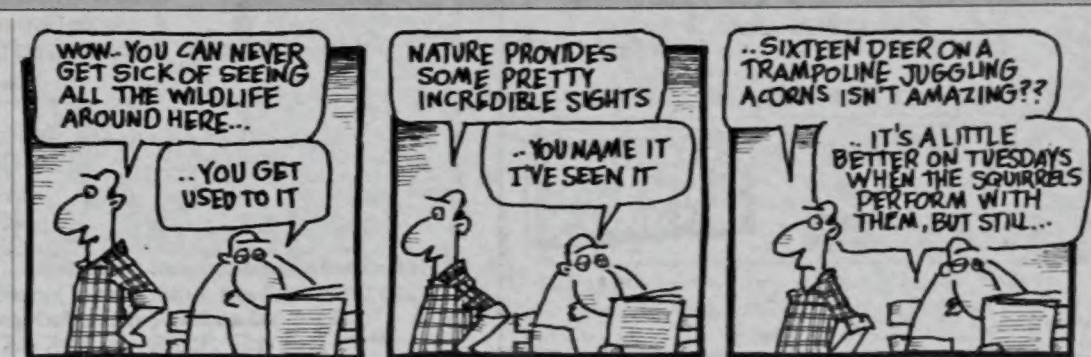
To the Editor:

Re: Rock the Wake

I'm confused. Are we trying to promote community-based events or are we a venue for people to come and party? The town has spent money on promoting our little town as a artistic, environmentally friendly town (remember Haliburton, Where It's Art?). So then why would

See **Sign** page 8

Boonieville by Charlie Teljeur



Youth wanted to be heard

To the Editor:

This letter is in defence of the need that my friends and I felt to express our opinions regarding Rock the Wake. We're sorry that our choice of words offended some people but there is definitely power in words. We were trying to appeal to the same crowd that was

Sign on school property was embarrassing

from page 7

we allow something like 'Rock the Walk' to even be held in our town?

My first concern is the sign that was placed on the HHSS property. As a former student of HHSS I remember the school having a rule about not allowing student to dress provocatively or wear shirts with alcohol logos. So then why would they help promote a event that has a bikini contest and is sponsored by Coors Lite? It's embarrassing and quite frankly a little insulting that HHSS would allow such a sign on their property. What kind of message does that send to the kids of this community? It's not alright to wear a Molson shirt or a halter top to class but going to see a bikini contest and going to the beer tent is alright?

That being said I would like to talk about 'our' sign. We apologize if some of you were offended by use of the dreaded F-word, but we feel that that word (that one in particular) holds power. We wanted to draw people's attention, and we also wanted to appeal to the same crowd that was going to Rock the Wake.

Events like this draw a unwanted spotlight to our town. As a young person I realize that, yes, this town does need an event for our youth, but is speeding around on Head Lake, burning gas like no tomorrow, ruining our environment, degrading women, and drinking beer really what we think our kids want to do? If so, we're not going to hell in a handbasket but we're well on our way.

Nick Dunec,
Haliburton

attracted to the simplicity of Rock the Wake's title.

If Wendy Sisson doesn't want us to be offended by RTW's billboards, then it is very hypocritical of her to take offence at ours. She uses the excuse that "Art" is in the eye of the beholder. Perhaps she should heed her own advice before being "appalled".

The event catered mainly to a teen-aged/young adult crowd. I am a young adult myself who just graduated from high school two short years ago. In regards to Sheri Hawkins' letter, I can safely say that my friends and I have found many alternatives to wake-boarding that don't involve smoking crack, or doing any drugs at all. As a mother who "lost your daughter to the trappings of the city", you should understand our distaste with some of these "trappings" being imposed on laid-back Haliburton County.

We should direct some energy toward providing some community-oriented entertainment, or activities that promote creative or rational thought. Instead we force kids to resort to some of the only things that have been shoved down their throats by the media their whole lives: corporate consumption and sexual degradation.

Drew Bishop said in his letter that the bikini contest made him glad he has two sons. I wonder how the parents of the girls in the contest felt.

I would like Sheri Hawking to be aware that I have access to my parents' very nice cottage which has a beautiful sand beach. I feel extremely privileged and grateful to be able to enjoy such a luxury while the majority of our species struggles to make ends meet. My parents do own a leisure boat and I refuse to use it. I willingly choose not to participate in motorized water sports as I have always found the motor-boat industry to be excessively destructive. The amount of petroleum being burned and released into the environment (not to mention the resources used to construct the boats) is wasteful and unnecessary.

Those of you out there who look down upon my friends and me for free-thinking and feeling the need to express our own opinions are probably the same people who think that promoting sex, alcohol, and mass-consumerism to kids is a "terrific" idea that needs to be "celebrated" and "commended". We're just a group of youth who wanted our voice to be heard, which it was. So thanks for listening.

Erica Poley,
Haliburton

50-year-old pleased with wake festival

To the Editor

As a fifty-year-old who has raised his family in Haliburton I was pleased to see the Rock the Wake festival continue to grow in our town. One can draw similarities between this and the town's need of condominiums for seniors to "save some of our population from leaving." (Echo, May 31/05.) For "generations" of high schoolers there has been a sad lack of activities here, made much more difficult by our vast geography and low population. We need this not just for a healthier economy, but for a healthier society within our village and county. The youth are our future: We want them to stay!

I take care of some flower beds in town near the lights and was pleased to find that, for the first event weekend in five seasons, I did not have to repair damage or pick up a single piece of garbage. Thank you! I took the time to go down to the park to see what was going on. What I saw were dedicated athletes enjoying their sport, sports fans, and people having a great time just talking while listening to the music that they like.

What I saw when I looked at the sign was just as Frank Thom said in his letter: "A sign meant to attract a youthful audience to a youthful event." I also say many hot and tired organizers and volunteers and agree that we should "Applaud their courage and recognize their efforts." Great job!

We have seen many improvements in Haliburton this year. Let's work hard to create an image that reflects an all inclusive attitude towards every race, colour, gender, creed, religion and age.

M. "Mic" Clarke,
Haliburton.

Isn't it great?

To the Editor:

Regarding the letters protesting the 'tackiness' of the Rock the Wake billboards, the artist has depicted his/her impression of what this weekend was about. As with any piece of art, some will like it, some won't. But isn't it great that everyone has the opportunity to express themselves!

Arlene Johnson,
Haliburton

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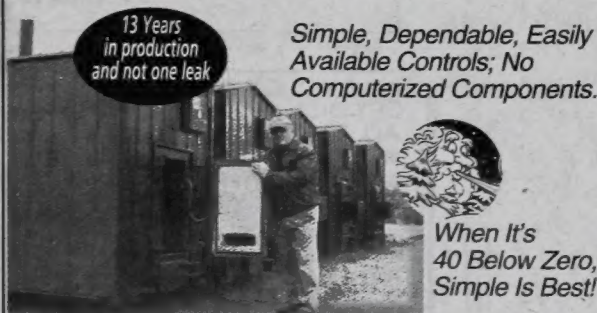
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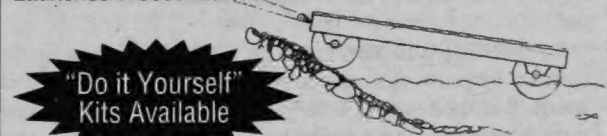
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Head Lake residents loved wake festival

To the Editor:

Re: Rock the Wake

From opposition to pleasantly surprised...

Congratulations to all those people who put on such a terrific event!

We, too, were expecting the worst from all the boat activity but even the young waterfowl seemed to think this was pretty darn wonderful having all these yummy tid-bits to feed on after the events of the day. In fact it probably did Head Lake some good getting all the old debris churned up and cleaned up.

Another concern of ours was our old dock, but yes it survived just fine, too! We put on our bathing suits, resurrected our old air mattresses and enjoyed

the waves! I guess you could say we "Rode the Waves" instead of "Rocked the Wake"!

On Sunday we both headed down to the show and couldn't believe the hard work, time, money and effort which went into putting on Rock the Wake. We both agree the entrepreneurial spirit should be commended not opposed.

To be honest, the F*CK the Wake sign was much more offensive than anything this event had to offer.

Hopefully some money was made and people appreciate all the blood, sweat and tears that was put into this event and maybe we can enjoy it next year!

Thanks-for the fun weekend

Paul & Lisa Cowen
Head Lake, Haliburton

Strong public support needed at this time to save the Frost

To the Editor:

It's now almost a year to the day since the bombshell which closed the Leslie Frost Centre was dropped. Yet the victim still clings to life, and there is still even hope for a full recovery. This is due not just to the unprecedented outcry from a public who understands the great importance of, and need for, the hands-on environmental education that facilities such as the Frost Centre provide. It is also due to the hard work and determination of the Working Committee that was formed to find an alternative which would fulfill the Centre's many excellent functions.

At this critical point Perma-Frost would like to thank the Working Committee for its energy, skill and professionalism. At the same time, having attended all their meetings, Perma-Frost wants to congratulate the committee on its dedication to the democratic process. Their determination to ensure that the public be heard on this issue, demonstrated by the openness of their meetings

and willingness to answer questions and consider suggestions from the floor has been remarkable. The provincial government should know this has truly been a public exercise. We also support the Committee's recommendations, feeling they are a true and accurate distillation of the essential concerns expressed by the community at large. And, like the Committee, we hope for their full and timely acceptance.

But the battle is far from over. This is a critical time. With the presentation of the final report and recommendations to the Ontario Management Board, due any day now, the process then reverts entirely to the government, which is under no obligation to accept all or any of those recommendations. And while we recognize the good will, not just of the Working Committee but also of those ORC members who have been part of the process from the beginning, and from Minister Gerry Phillips himself (who we know is 'keenly interested' in the process and sees its success as a possible prototype for future government-public issues), we are not convinced that the Government as a whole feels so disposed.

For this reason we urge the public to remind the government once again that they are still watchful and expect it to 'do the right thing'. Specifically we hope many Ontarians will urge the government to accept the committee's recommendations so that the Centre, with new management, can be up and running by the spring of 2006. Anyone can do this by writing, calling or e-mailing their own MPP (locally laurie.scott@pc.ola.org) and/or the Chair of the Management Board (gphillips.mpp@liberal.ola.org). We also feel that strong public support at the presentation of the report may help Hon. Phillips in his efforts to persuade the cabinet that it is in their best interests to accept the report. For when and where the presentation will take place check the papers and Canoe-FM or online visit www.safethefrostcentre.ca.

Dave Heaven,
Perma-Frost

Signs confuse 'foreigner'

To the Editor:

I am a foreigner who spends my summers in Haliburton (This is my 68th year summering here).

I am confused as to what address I should use. The road I live on has two names: County Road 18 and Kashagawigamog Lake Road. A year ago it was called South Kashagawigamog Lake Road.

If I use the second address I increase the typing time 100 percent, plus there's the extra cost of the ink!!! My postal person could find me with the address RR

#2. Also Canada Bell and Ontario Hydro had no problems finding me with the RR #2 address.

Ain't progress wonderful:

Several years ago, the "Big Wheels" changed the names of lakes. Now the "Big Wheels" want to demolish the Niven House (on Haliburton's main street). The "Big Wheels" moved and elevated the railway station. A railways station eight feet above the railway tracks?

John W. Southcombe,
Haliburton

'What a pair of dopes,' says reader about 'Boys'

To the Editor:

I have not seen worse examples of stupidity than the pictures of Bryan Weese and Steve Galea on pages 10, 11 and 12 in last week's County Life. They both deserve a nice cold swim or worse set-

ting the example of standing up in a small boat with no lifejackets. What a pair of dopes!!!

Bill Valentine,
Lutterworth

Letters

to the Editor

are always welcome here at the Haliburton County Echo.

Please include your full name, address and phone number on all correspondence.

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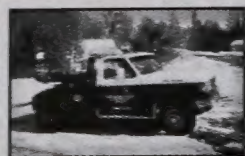
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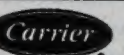
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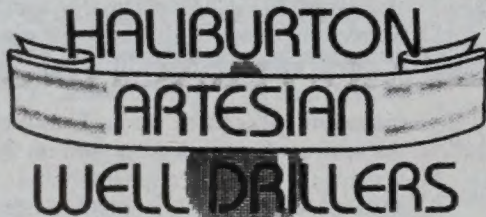
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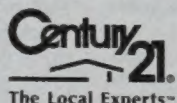
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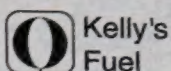
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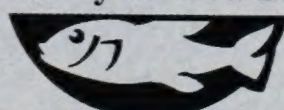


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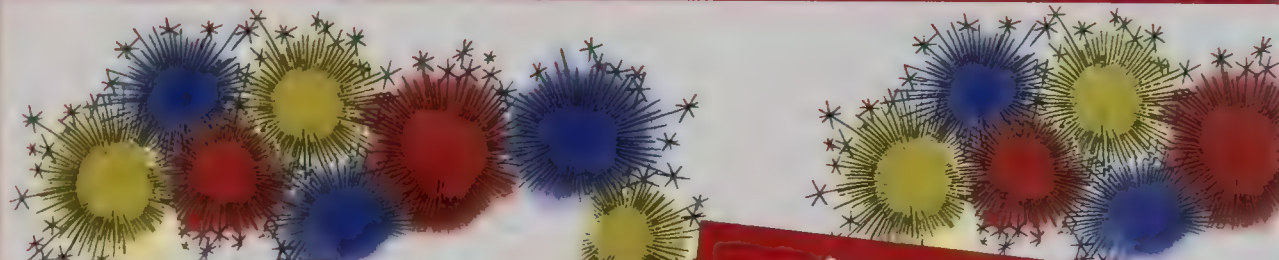
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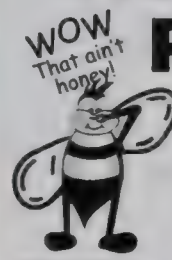
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A golfer's dream

Bob Brackenbury hits the perfect shot

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

Will golf ever be the same again for Bob Brackenbury?

"Not likely," the Soyers Lake resident says a day after he hit his first hole-in-one.

Brackenbury was golfing with his friend Jim Coughlin, a teacher at Fleming College, at the Delta Pinestone on Wednesday, June 22.

They were on the 146-yard third hole when "I put a nice smooth swing on an eight iron and watched the ball lift," Brackenbury says. "As it was rolling towards the green I turned to Jim and said, 'That's got a good chance of going in. We just watched it roll right into the hole.'

"It was nice."

Brackenbury's wife Dianne was County Life's golf columnist until she decided to turn off her computer and spend more time on the links. They usually golf together but joked that if either one had a hole in one, the other would probably say, "Yeah, right."

"But as luck would have it," Dianne says, when it came to the big moment for her husband, "he was golfing with a

LANCE CROSSLEY/Echo



It took him 51 years, but Soyers Lake resident Bob Brackenbury is finally able to boast about hitting a hole in one. He was golfing at Delta Pinestone last Wednesday with a friend when his one shot sent the ball flying into the third hole.

friend. It was much more believable."

Bob Brackenbury has been golfing for 51 years and this is the first time he hit the perfect shot. He's kept the ball and the scorecard as a reminder – not that

he'd ever forget such a day. But he might, however, need them as proof when he tells his other golfing buddies.

Asked if golf will ever be the same game for him now that he's reached the

pinnacle of success, Brackenbury laughs and says, "Not likely" as he headed out for another day of golf at Delta Pinestone.

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A hint of autumn

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School junior football coaching staff put aspiring football players through their paces during a week-long (June 13 - 17) development camp. Coach Duncan Luciak gets the young hopefuls to run through the "chute". More than 30 athletes worked through six work stations, including offense, defense and special teams formations. Included with the coaching staff (Luciak, Bart Harvey, Ed Hessel, and Dave Chambers), Greg Simmons, Brenden White, Kalem Kyle and Dave Balaski helped run the clinic. The clinic concluded with a barbecue for the participants.

Karate competitors bring home 12 medals, six for rookies

Competitors from across Ontario met at the Evinrude Centre in Peterborough on May 29. The tournament included a special board-breaking demonstration as well as an exciting black belt sparring match.

Kai Shin sent eight competitors, three of them being new medal winners. Six of the 12 medals were won by Kai Shin's rookies.

In what was likely his last tournament as a brown belt, Kyle Seabrooke had a perfect swan song performance winning a gold medal in Kata and gold in sparring. Kyle will be going to Mississauga in July to try for his black belt.

Newcomer Devan McConnell won double gold medals in his first time out.

David Ford, also in his first tournament, won silver in Kata and silver in sparring.

Greg Kennedy enjoyed his first tournament winning a gold medal for kata and bronze in sparring.

Emily Mackie won double medals with a silver in kata and silver in sparring.

Rob Jones won a bronze medal for his



Kai Shin sensi Mike Chapman took a team of competitors from his Haliburton karate club to Peterborough. They came home with 12 medals, six of which were won by rookies.

Kata and Brad Tripp won silver in his sparring match.

Kai Shin is enjoying an influx of new members so if you are interested in joining or just checking the club out now is a great time. For information call Sensi

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Team effort goes into each week's paper

from page 1

The Christmas supplement came first among papers with a circulation between 4,000 and 12,499.

"The Echo gets top marks for producing its well-planned, well-designed, and well-written Christmas edition," the judge says.

"From beginning to end, it was obvious this section was produced by someone with a true appreciation for Christmas in a small community. The front cover - Cathy Olliffe's picture of her sleeping child - was one of the few entries that featured an original picture, instead of syndicated graphic artwork.

"The section featured Christmas editorial submissions from both their staff and readers. The designer [Cathy Olliffe] made excellent use of the photos, graphics,

fonts and even white space to produce a section that is pleasing to the eye."

The Echo would like to share the credit of this award with the Haliburton Highlands Writers' and Editors' Network, whose members responded with enthusiasm, and skill, to the paper's call for Christmas stories. Their efforts are much appreciated and, now, much lauded.

Editor Martha Perkins came second in the Best Historical Story category for newspapers with a circulation between 4,000 and 12,499 for her Remembrance Day story of veteran Dorothy Robertson.

"The difference between first and second is slight," the judge says. "Martha Perkins could just as easily have been first, but sadly only one can top the list. Perkins turned her story over to her subject and gets herself out of the way. It means Dorothy comes to life, and her

voice rises from the pages. Excellent effort."

The Echo also came second in Best Coverage of the Arts for all papers with a circulation up to 9,999. The submission included a range of features and photos highlighting this county's tremendous depth of talent.

"The top three finishers in this division were very close," the judge says. "The Echo offered an eye-pleasing read that undeniably lures readers into the paper."

The Echo's sister newspaper, the Minden Times, came third in the Best All Round Newspaper category for papers with a circulation of 2,000 to 2,999.

As the judges indicate, putting out a paper week after week is a team effort. Were it not for each member of this team, the Echo would not be able to meet the consistently high standards that it

strives to maintain in order to give a first-class community a first-class paper.

We'd like to applaud every member of that team: Publisher Len Pizzey, general manager Sandra Bishop, editor Martha Perkins, advertising manager Renzo Rosati (and formerly Sue Nicholson), advertising salespeople Laura Smith, Harold Tashlin, Joanne Bancroft and Sabrina Sisson (and formerly Frank Wilson), reporters Sheryl Loucks, Darren Lum and Lance Crossley (as well as summer reporters Andy Lloyd and Graeme Stemp), graphic artists Jamie Woodman, Donna Brohm, Kathleen Walker and Karen Harkness (and formerly Sandi Luck), graphic designer Cathy Olliffe, front desk administrator Linda Emmerson, front desk assistant Kit Pizzey, typesetter Sharon Murison, columnists Steve Galea, Sharon Lynch and Marion Hare, and our drivers Frank Powers and Jim Watson.

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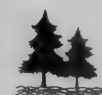
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A fishy tale

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's Grade 11/12 Drama class taught by Trish Wootton staged two one-act plays: *Why Do We Laugh?* and *The Fish Story: One Man's Search For The Truth*. *Laugh* is a comedy/drama showing a couple's passage of time from pre-school to old-age, including high school and middle age years while the play *Truth* is a farsical comedy following the path of main character Tim on his discovery about his uncle — allegedly a fish. Tim encounters a variety of characters on his journey, including his own family.

Lindsay man loses leg in accident near Ingoldsby

from page 1

towards Minden. On the way past the other westbound vehicles the Golf encountered an eastbound motorcycle.

The Golf, driven by 19-year-old Lindsay Archer of Minden, tried to merge back into its lane but hit a black Saturn SUV. The motorcycle was struck by one of the vehicles and the rider was ejected into the ditch.

Packard jumped out of her car and ran to the aid of the motorcyclist.

"I was just screaming for him to say something when I heard his moan," said Packard. "I took a first aid course years ago, and when I found him it all came

back to me in a flash."

Packard was relieved of her first aid duties by paramedics who took William Denning, 48 of Lindsay, to Minden Hospital. Later that afternoon he was airlifted to Sunnybrook hospital, where he remains in stable condition.

Unfortunately, the collision with the guard rail and the other vehicles claimed Denning's left leg.

Neither of the drivers of the SUV nor Golf were injured in the collision. The OPP's Technical Traffic Collision Investigators are still investigating the accident which closed County Road 21 for more than five hours.

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Defence rests on Bagg's beliefs at time of statements

from page 1

him down."

In Monday's summation, two legal terms were used. One is mens reus, which is criminal intent. In this case it refers to Bagg's state of mind when she gave her first two statements on the day of Jesse's death, first at the scene and 12 hours later at her house. Did she intend to mislead police?

The second is actus reus, or the actual criminal act.

In courtroom testimony over the past few months, Bagg said that when she came across what she thought was a log on the road, she swerved and subconsciously heard a sound. It wasn't until the second interview later at her home, when a police officer told her that sometimes someone can hit another person and not realize it, that she began a year-long process of wondering what caused that noise.

The forensic evidence does not tie Bagg's minivan to the death of the 17-year-old teenager who was hitchhiking from Eagle Lake, where he'd been dropped off by friends after a party, to his cottage on Haliburton Lake, Norris said Monday.

The first forensic expert testified about a paint chip found in Jesse's t-shirt. "Her evidence goes no higher than to say that a tiny paint fragment found in his clothing is consistent [with the paint of Bagg's minivan]," Norris said. "That does not establish that Ms. Bagg's vehicle hit Mr. Dickson... [The witness] most certainly did not suggest any kind of a match. That evidence in no way establishes that [Bagg's] third statement is true. Nor does it show her first two statements are false."

The pathologist's evidence "goes no higher than saying Mr. Dickson was struck by a motor vehicle and he was struck while standing, a single time," Norris said. "The doctor's evidence was able to assist court with a possible cause of bruising to the hip area [by being struck with a collapsible mirror but] it goes no distance towards establishing it was Ms. Bagg's vehicle that caused that injury."

The testimony of those two witnesses does not establish that what Bagg said on

September 15, 2002 was untrue, her lawyer said.

Norris then provided several case histories about people charged with obstructing justice. Although Bagg has been charged with obstructing police, he believes that the protocols for establishing guilt, and a mens reus, are the same: the attempt to obstruct police must be willful. In the cases he supplied the burden of proof revolves around the inability to prove the person did not believe what they said at the time. There was no proven intent to obstruct justice.

Even if the court found Bagg's two original statements to be untrue, Norris said "Ms. Bagg's clear and unshakeable belief that she did not strike Mr. Dickson is a complete defense and ought to at least raise a reasonable doubt."

In her second interview with police Const. Kris Size asked her if she had struck Jesse. When she said no, he said that sometimes people don't even realize when they've struck someone; that they can even drag the body some distance without realizing it.

Norris says that subsequently Bagg "sincerely but in a very misguided way took to heart Const. Size's statement that 'maybe you hit him but did not know it.' After doing everything she could to help Mr. Dickson [at the scene] and experiencing the frustration of the long delays [for the ambulance and police to arrive], Ms. Bagg allowed Const. Size's comment to eat away at her and she began to doubt herself... The later statement of belief [in October 2003] sheds no light on her state of mind when these alleged offences took place."

As to the charges against his client, Norris said, "What is alleged to be obstructed is an investigation into a fatal motor vehicle accident. Even if she did believe she had contact with Mr. Dickson's foot or leg, her failure to mention that fact cannot establish actus reus... There is no evidence that such an incidental contact could have in any way caused his death."

"Indeed, as it's reflected in her statement [in October 2003], when she looks at her conduct in retrospect she didn't want to throw [the police] investigation off track. 'If they think that I was respon-

sible they won't look for the person who did [cause his death.]' She wasn't trying to deflect suspicion because she was guilty, but if suspicion was attached to her the guilty party would go free."

Judge Chester asked about positive acts and acts of omission.

Norris said that to find Bagg guilty the Crown would have to prove that the act of obstructing police was done with intention, or with knowledge that the result would be certain.

The issue of omission is "a thorny one," Norris said. Referring to the Highway Traffic Act, which says you must report an accident if there's been an injury or damage over a certain amount to a vehicle, he said that he can't answer if an offence can be committed by not mentioning something during that report. "If what convicts her is omission then that comes back to whether she had a duty to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

Crown Attorney David Rowse said that when Bagg first said she swerved to avoid what she thought was a log, the fact that she did not say she also heard a sound "speaks to an untruthfulness in and of itself."

Rowse said Bagg admitted that "there was an obligation to provide as much information as possible. Where one fails to report the most crucial aspect of an accident, that then makes an untruthful statement."

Judge Chester said Norris was arguing it was an incomplete statement.

Rowse responded that "If a person fails to include the most important detail it's a misleading statement, it's an untrue statement, it contains deceit... It's akin to a witness in the witness box being asked a question and, knowing the answer, responding 'I don't know.' That's not the truth."

The Highway Traffic Act requires full disclosure, Rowse said. And while he says the evidence in this case is circumstantial, you have to look at the evidence in its totality to base an opinion.

Chester said that the trial wasn't an inquest "so why do I have to come to the conclusion [of whether Bagg hit Jesse] in respect to the charges of obstruction?"

Rowse said that in October 2003 Bagg

told police that she struck Jesse when he was lying down but evidence showed he was standing up when he was struck.

What about proving willfulness, Chester asked.

Rowse said there's "a great deal of evidence from witnesses which by themselves do not allow court to draw conclusions but together provide a framework."

For instance, the testimony about the paint chip indicates the paint was similar in chemical composition to the paint on Bagg's car. But the evidence doesn't determine that the paint chip was from her car. A police officer also testified that there were scratches on the passenger side of the van, the passenger side mirror was collapsible and that the rain gutter along the windshield has slipped away from its original contact point. The officer's statement about the height of the mirror was consistent with the pathologist's testimony about the height of Jesse's injuries.

"It doesn't necessarily mean the accused's vehicle struck the deceased but you can use it to make findings," Rowse said.

The pathologist testified there were no injuries to Jesse's lower body, he added. "The conclusion was there was blunt force applied and it was a vehicle that caused the injury, that there was a single impact and that the deceased was standing. The doctor also testified that a collapsible sideview mirror could cause such injuries." The pathologist also said that the damage to a vehicle that strikes someone can range from significant to just a smear of blood. "You don't need much damage to the vehicle."

When Bagg's then 10-year-old daughter Moriah, who was in the minivan that night, first talked to police after her mother's interview in October 2003, Rowse said that Moriah said that the swerving led to "an up and down motion" yet in her testimony in court she said it led to "a side to side motion."

Moriah also first said there was a sound. "It just felt like a boom but I didn't hear that or anything."

Rowse said "the real crux of this case does speak to mens reus, that being 'Is there willful intent to obstruct police' or

See Prosecution page 17

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David Hill
Director of Education

Better Together

Gary Brohman
Principal

Prosecution says Bagg was fully aware of what happened

from page 16

that she had talked herself into believing she had struck the deceased."

"Is that a red herring," Judge Chester asked. "Isn't my job to concentrate on two statements and try to ascertain whether it was her belief at the time?"

Rowse replied that "the beliefs of the accused have gone through a wide spectrum. The court is under obligation to look at all statements." The way to decide if Bagg believed her first statements to be true is to look at the other statements.

He then referred to a letter that Bagg had written to her husband, Rick Bagg, the day of her scheduled polygraph test. Bagg wrote, "Honey, I'm so sorry I couldn't tell you the whole truth last September."

"That's determinative of the mindset of the accused at September 2002," Rowse said.

[Earlier on Monday Bagg said she should have written 'I couldn't tell you the whole truth about last September' and that it was a mistake to leave out the word about.]

Rowse said "she admits that she left out the word about. In my submission that's ridiculous. This letter was prepared the day she attended at the police station. The accused knew certain things in 2002 which she purposefully withheld.... The only inference is that the accused knew she had struck the deceased when she provided her statement in 2002."

Even a year later, when she told police that she had struck Jesse, Rowse said that she continued to obstruct police by saying he was lying down "when all the evidence suggests otherwise."

There are also differences in her statements about how much alcohol she drank that night. In court she said she had four drinks; in her videotaped statement she said three, Rowse said.

She made no mention of a sound in her first two statements to police, the Crown Attorney said. In court she said the sound [she heard when coming across Jesse's body on the road] was part of her subconscious but in the videotape she described it as a 'Kaboom!'"

[Earlier on Monday, Bagg said that her use of the word kaboom was "qualitative not quantitative", that it described the type of sound, not its volume.]

Rowse continued, "She testified [in court] that the sound wasn't overly loud when in the video it was stated that it was quite a bang."

Referring to Bagg's testimony in the videotaped interview that she told her daughter Moriah not to tell anyone about hitting Jesse because she wanted the police to find out who had first struck him down, Rowse said that holds true to the charge that she knew she had hit Jesse and took steps not to disclose that information.

Rowse said that the purpose of willingly obstructing police is not necessarily what results from it. "Actus reas is made out by the fact this investigation continued. The police were investigating who had done it

when in fact the evidence set out in the video suggests she played a role that was not disclosed. The suggestion that she didn't want to throw the police in the wrong path is absurd."

The Highway Traffic Act calls for disclosure of information about an accident, Rowse said. "She understood she was to provide as much information as she could."

But Norris said the act is not that clear about the person's obligations. It calls for the person to furnish the officer "with information as may be required by the officer." The officer, in turn, must secure the particulars of an accident and other information to make a written report."

Norris said that it's even unclear whether the police were in compliance. In effect, he said, the police said "Tell me what happened." He stressed that what was important in this case was Bagg's state of mind on September 15, 2002. What she believed a year later is no indication of her state of mind that day. The letter to her husband "is at most a reflection of what she believes in October 2003 and is of little assistance [to ascertaining] her state of mind a year earlier. She just doesn't know the truth [about what really happened that night] even now. It's clear that what was nagging her was the sound."

The Crown, Norris said, is providing circumstantial evidence to show that she did know what had happened and that she realized it at the time. Bagg led herself to believe she might have struck his legs yet there are no injuries to his leg, which is consistent with her initial statements.

"At the end of the day," Norris said, "the question is whether Ms. Bagg told the police something she knew was not true."

Judge Chester said his earlier use of the term "red herring" was perhaps an overstatement. If he does find that Bagg realized she had struck him on the night of the accident, that reflects back to the second interview with police when she was asked if it was possible that she had hit him.

Norris replied that "At the time she believed it wasn't possible; she believed she hadn't."

"Even though," Chester said, "there was that noise and 'kaboom?'"

"That's isn't in her written statement" in response to the question whether it was possible she may have hit Jesse, Norris said. "That's not part of actus reas."

Rowse stressed that the Highway Traffic Act puts the duty on the person to accurately describe what happens in an accident. If this duty does not require a person to share vital information about the accident then we're on a slippery slope. "If it's not a required part of the duty there's no point in having this duty."

Norris said that what she didn't report was a sound she dismissed as being irrelevant.

Judge Chester said he was going to reserve judgement on the case so he could look over the various statements and testimonies. He will be announcing his verdict in Lindsay on July 28 at 10 a.m.

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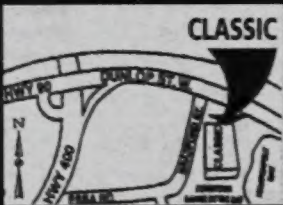
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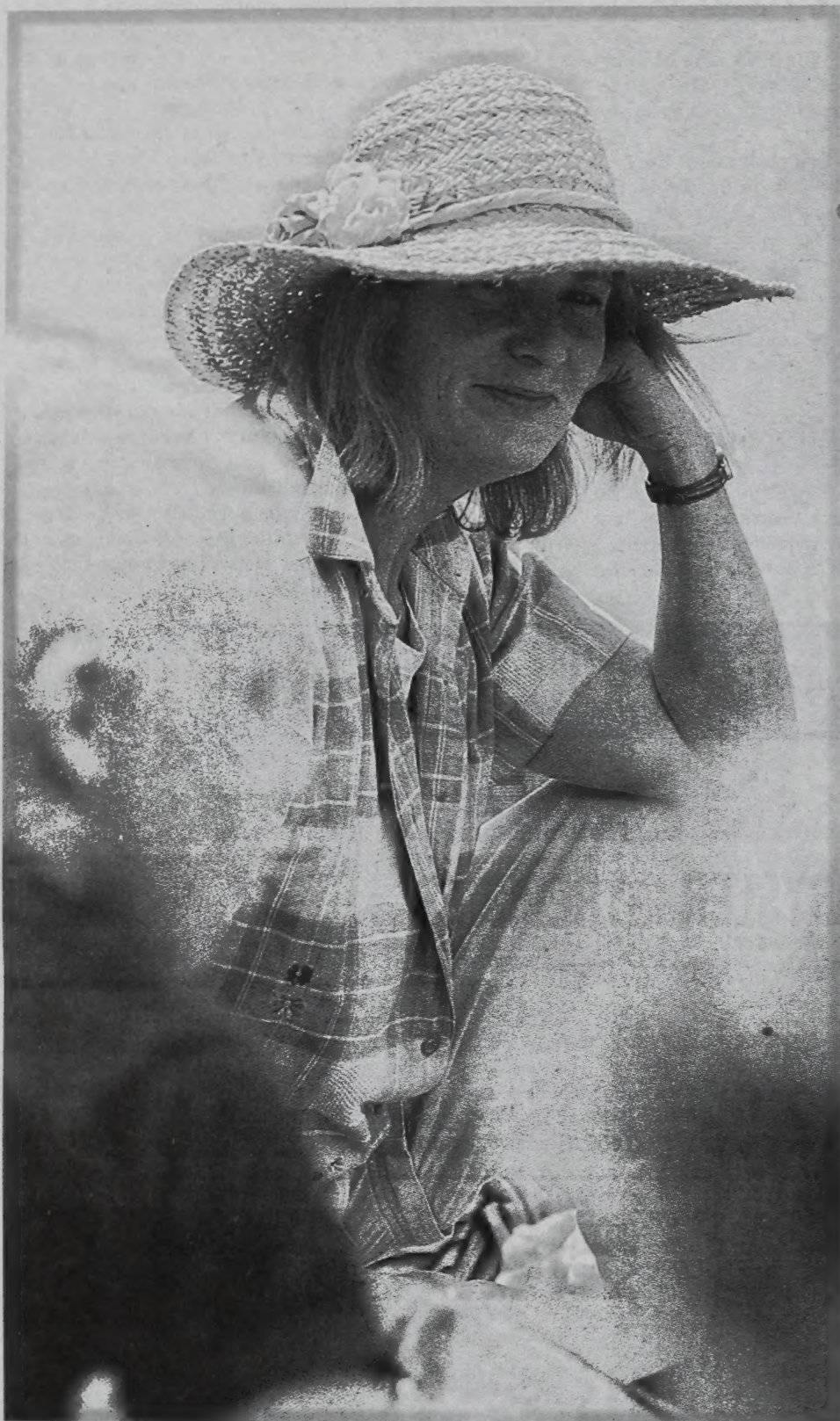
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SBES gives school year a colourful send off

Photos by Darren Lum



One of Haliburton County's finest teachers is leaving school at the end of this week. After starting her 31-year career in Scarborough, Diane Dawson came to the Highlands to teach at the Browndale homes. She soon transferred to Archie Stouffer Elementary School, a place she returned to after spending several years at Victoria Street School and J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School. She's ending her career as a kindergarten teacher at SBES. Kindergarten, she says, has retained its magic. The same can be said of her spell over young children.



Throngs of people helped Stuart Baker Elementary School raise nearly \$4,000 to purchase new playground equipment at the first ever Carnival Fun Night. Community groups and private businesses helped to make this event possible. Principal Micheline Roy, above, is also a professional clown as families discovered.



The children delighted in the antics of a juggler.



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Treasurer helps put HCSA in the black

Snowmobile club climbs out of \$70,000 hole

LANCE CROSSLEY

Staff Reporter

White may be the preferred colour of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association but it's also very keen on black, at least when it comes to its finances.

After a few years of seeing red, the club is getting stronger and more viable, said President Andy Chvedukas at the HCSA's annual general meeting at the Delta Pinestone Resort on June 11.

Much credit for getting the club out of debt can go to Mary Chvedukas, the HCSA's treasurer. "Her ability to manage our club's finances like those of a large company has made us financially viable yet again," said her husband. "Careful financial spending has meant more money for grooming. Her vigilance on spending has meant we have kept the club's values while going from \$70,000 in debt to a surplus."

Mary's hard work was recognized with a volunteer of the year award.

Tom Nicholson also received a volunteer of the year award for his role in keeping much of the HCSA's trail system clear and in good condition.

"Tom's dedication and hard work have made the trails their best in years," said Andy Chvedukas. "Many members may know Tom as Inspector Gadget



GRAEME STEMP/ECHO

Mary Chvedukas was also named the Haliburton County Snowmobiler's Association Volunteer of the Year at the club's recent AGM. President Andy Chvedukas, right, says volunteers are integral to the success of the HCSA. "The snow may disappear but the work continues year round. The hard work of numerous volunteers has saved my sanity...but that's a debatable topic."

because he's always there to help fix something; he always has the knowledge, the tools, and the parts needed for the job."

The club's president said that this past year there were numerous positive comments about the trails, and no negative feedback. Insuring the trails' sustainability was also high on the HCSA's agenda, so the group has partnered with municipalities to move trails off private lands and onto public lands.

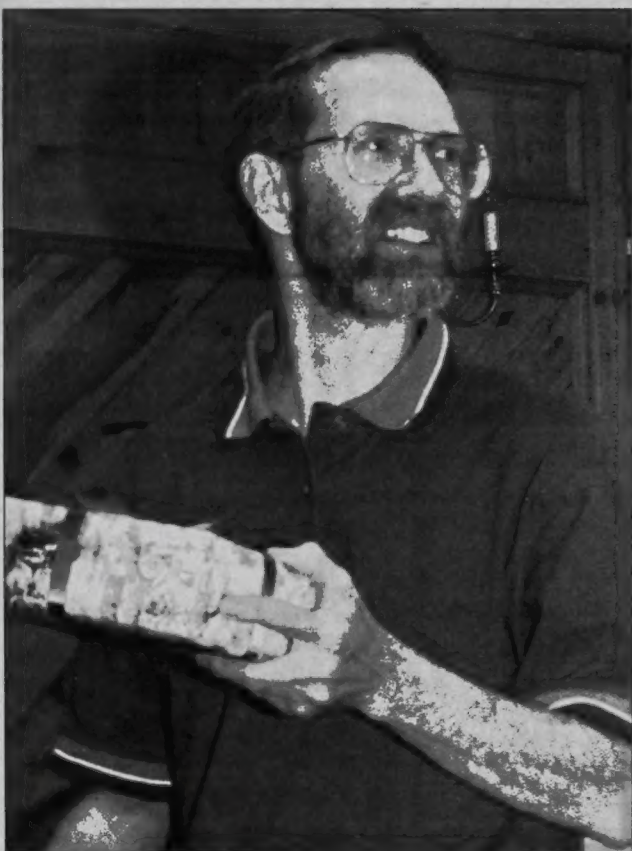
Chvedukas's address referred to the longevity and dedication of the group.

"This club has been around since 1971, and everything we have achieved has been through the hard work of volunteers. We have members groom the

trails who were here when we formed; that's dedication to your passion."

Also discussed during the evening was the election of seven new directors for the club. Most of the seven elected were individuals who had previously been directors. "The club's getting tired," said Mary Chvedukas. "A lot of us have been doing a lot of work for too many years. We need new people to come in and help the club."

Anyone who loves snowmobiling and would like to help maintain the trails that they enjoy using is always welcome at the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association.



"Is it a new snowmobile?" asks Tom Nicholson. Nicholson when he received a gift from the HCSA after being named one of the volunteers of the year.

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